

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue

P1. Other Identifier: None

*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

*a. County Santa Clara

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Mountain View Date 1980 photorevised T 6S; R 2W; B.M. Mt. Diablo

c. Address 161 North Sunnyvale Road City Sunnyvale Zip 94086

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S; 586047mE/ 4137412mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor's Parcel Number: 204-49-009

*P3a Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Originally a single story, single family dwelling, the building was modified when transformed into apartments. Currently this two-story, wood-framed Classical Revival house is located approximately in the center of its lot. The u-shaped driveway circles the house. A garage/carport, providing spaces for seven cars, is located at the rear and is separated from the house by the driveway. The house is rectangular in plan covered by a side-gabled, moderately pitched roof. The deep eaves, the underside covered with v-groove sheathing, have exposed, curved rafters. Two hipped dormers are located on the east slope of the roof. A bowed window is located on the front facade to the left of the entry and contains four one-over-one wood sash double-hung windows. The southwest corner of the house is popped out at the first floor creating a square bay window at this corner. A separate roof covers the bay, which is detailed like a shallow eave with exposed, clipped rafters. The majority of the windows are one-over-one wood sash double-hung. Some exceptions are the multi-lite diamond pattern fixed located on the first floor, which may have been salvaged from the original porch, and the hopper windows located on the rear addition. The exterior is sheathed in tri-bevel lap siding above the water table and flush wood siding below. The first floor is located above grade. The front entry is located just off center in the east facade. The front stoop is poured concrete and has six steps. It is covered by a gabled, pedimented roof that is supported by two pairs of Roman Tuscan, unfluted columns. The pediment is faced with tri-bevel lap siding that matches the rest of the exterior.

(Continued on Page 3)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 3 Multiple family property

*P4 Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)

View from northeast, Oct 2001

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

c1913/Deed

*P7. Owner and Address:

Donald E Koreski, Trustee
Estate of F.J. Miller
c/o Lynn Miller
22065 Lippencott
Burney, CA 96013

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Dill Design Group
110 N Santa Cruz Ave
Los Gatos CA 95030

*P9. Date Recorded: 10/25/01

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Historical and Architectural Evaluation for two Residential Buildings Located at 161 and 167 north Sunnyvale Avenue, Dill Design Group, October 25, 2001.

*Attachments: NONE ☐ Location ☐ Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling State Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List)

DPR 523A (1/95)

*Required information

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary #
HRI #

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*NRHP Status Code 7

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue

B1. Historic Name: Bessey House

B2. Common Name: None

B3. Original use: Single family residence B4. Present Use: Multi-family residence (apartments)

*B5. Architectural Style: Classical Revival

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built c1913. Remodeling into apartments and second story added c1941.

*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: n/a Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

Detached garage/carport

B9a Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture and Shelter Area Sunnyvale

Period of Significance 1913-1926 Property Type Residential Applicable Criteria None

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

In 1913, title to land at 161 North Sunnyvale was transferred from Albert and Ada Bessey to Arthur E. Bessey. Arthur and his wife, Bertha (Raymond) Bessey, built the house that currently occupies the site at 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue. At the time, numbers had not been assigned to houses, but by the late 1920's it was listed as 155 North Sunnyvale Avenue. Arthur and Bertha had at least two children: Ernest and Margaret.

Some secondary sources have claimed that the site at 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue was owned and occupied by the owner of Jubilee Incubator Company (Sevey, 1988). A close examination of the U.S. Census for 1920, city directories and newspaper reports, clarifies what is reported here: that Albert W. Bessey was the founder and proprietor of the business; that Arthur E. Bessey was a manager there; and that Arthur E. Bessey built and occupied the subject house. Albert Bessey, the owner of Jubilee Incubator Company, never occupied the house at 161 North Sunnyvale. Nevertheless, the house and the family were visible, important members of the Sunnyvale community, and all of the Besseys lived on North Sunnyvale Avenue.

Besides Jubilee Incubator Company, other important companies in the immediate area of North Sunnyvale Avenue were Joshua Hendy Ironworks (a foundry), Libby, McNeil & Libby (a cannery), and Goldy Machine Works.

In 1931, a couple named Edgar and Amelia Rickers bought the property for \$7,500. Within a year the Rickers also defaulted, and during a series of ownerships by failing banking institutions, the house was rented out. The most well-known occupant of the subject property during the 1930's was Beatrice M. Ritchie (*San Jose Mercury Herald*, 1907), who became very important in Sunnyvale when she established a company devoted to gift packaging dried fruit and nut products of the local orchards. Beatrice Ritchie's gifts became synonymous with the produce of the "Valley of Heart's Delight" well into the 1980's.
(Continued on Page 3)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2 Single family property

*B12. References:

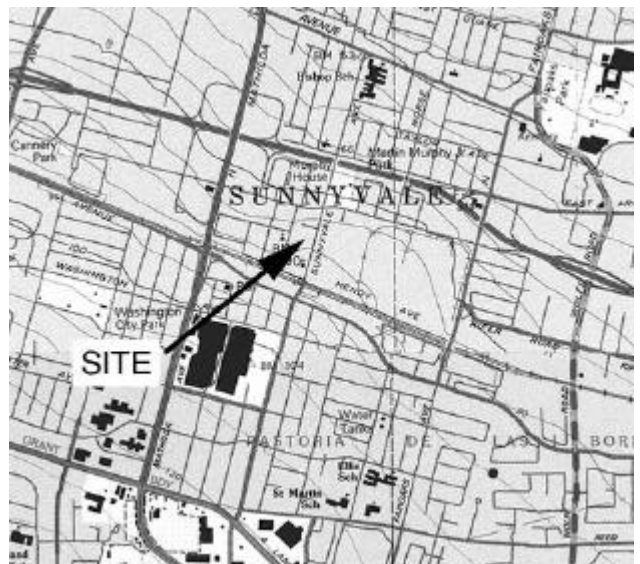
Ignoffo, Mary Jo, 1994, *Sunnyvale, From the City of Destiny to the Heart of Silicon Valley*. Cupertino: California History Center, De Anza College.
Peterson, Kay., 2000, *Sunnyvale Collage II*.
Sunnyvale Standard, 1923 Blossom Edition
Sunnyvale, 1979, Cultural Resources Inventory
Sunnyvale City Directories 1962-1968
(See report for full listing of references)

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Amber Grady

*Date of Evaluation: October 27, 2001

(This space reserved for official comments.)



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

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*Resource Name of # (Assigned by recorder) 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue

*Recorded by A.Grady

*Date October 27, 2001

☒ Continuation

☐ Update

***P3a Description: (Continued from Page 1)**

The building contains seven apartments. The only common areas appear to be the central hallways on the first and second floors as well as a laundry porch located at the rear of the building. Unique light fixtures can be found in the bathrooms and on the porch. The small kitchens in each of the apartments appear unmodified from the c1940 remodel. Small tiled counter areas with similar sinks and wicker venting on the cabinet under the sink. Many of the bathrooms also appear to have been unchanged since the c1940 remodel. One bathroom had a period mirror flanked by strips of electrical outlets.

***B10. Significance: (Continued from Page 2)**

In 1939, the California State Building and Loan Commissioner sold 161 North Sunnyvale, the one-time Arthur E. Bessey home, to Henry G. and Lois Wanderer, the occupants of 167 North Sunnyvale Avenue. In 1941, the Wanderers split the lots and sold the portion facing Murphy Avenue to Peter Feenstra.

By 1943, Henry Wanderer had converted the large home into seven apartments. During World War II, workers at the nearby Joshua Hendy Ironworks rented the apartments. Hendy Ironworks had been purchased by a partnership of six major construction companies in 1940. When the war began, the ironworks employed just sixty workers. It was awarded government contracts to build engines for Liberty Ships. At its peak, Hendy employed 7,500 workers, and broke records perfecting mass production of the 140-ton steam engines. The huge increase in workers caused a serious housing crunch in and around Sunnyvale. Although housing construction in many parts of the country and in most of the State of California was banned to conserve essential materials for the war effort, Sunnyvale was exempt from the ban in order to accommodate defense workers. After the war, Westinghouse Corporation purchased Hendy Ironworks. Although the firm did not employ as many workers as it had during the war, there was still a need for housing in Sunnyvale. The Wanderers' apartments remained rented over the years until the present day.

The seven apartments at 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue were sold to members of the Fernandez family and the building became known as the Fernandez apartments (City Directories, 1968). The Fernandez family owned the building until 1978. In 1978, the Fernandez family sold the seven-unit apartment building at 161 North Sunnyvale Avenue to former Sunnyvale City Council Member and Mayor, Donald E. Koreski and his wife, Mary. The following year, Mary Koreski quitclaimed her half portion, and F. James Miller became Koreski's partner. As noted, this property continues to be used as rental units.